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Imagery analysis report

Summary of Air Activity Chengdu Military Region, China

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SUMMARY OF AIR ACTIVITY, CHENGDU MILITARY REGION, CHINA

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1. (S) This report provides a summary of air-associated activity noted in the Chengdu Military Region (MR), China, from [redacted] Included in this report is information concerning organizational structure, operational control, status of airfields, air order-of-battle (AOB), significant construction, and analysis of air-related activities. This report contains one location map, two tables, and five annotated photographs.

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2. [redacted] Air activity in the Chengdu MR from [redacted] consisted of the deployment and return of the Chinese Air Force (CAF) 33rd Division during the Sino-Vietnamese conflict, the rotation of a 33rd Division regiment and the independent squadron late in the reporting period, the expansion of the CAF 2nd School to an additional airfield, the completion of two airfields, and the deployment of fighters to one of those airfields. All numerical designators and subordination were obtained from reference document 1.

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33rd Division

3. [redacted] The 33rd Division, the only CAF fighter unit in the Chengdu MR, has elements at two military and one civilian airfields in the eastern side of the Sichuan Basin (Figure 1 and Table 1). The 33rd Division consists of two FARMER regiments, one FAGOT/FRESCO regiment, and a FAGOT/FRESCO independent squadron.

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4. [redacted] The two FARMER regiments and the independent squadron of the 33rd Division deployed from Dazu, Liangping, and Baishiyi airfields (Figures 2 through 4) on [redacted] to the Kunming MR in preparation for the Sino-Vietnamese conflict.^{2,3,4} The return of the 33rd Division elements was apparently gradual. Imagery of [redacted] confirmed the return of the two FARMER regiments to Dazu and Liangping airfields. The independent squadron was not at Baishiyi Airfield on [redacted] imagery of the same date confirmed its presence at the airfield.⁴

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5. [redacted] Late in the reporting period a FARMER regiment and the independent squadron rotated. A FARMER regiment was observed at Baishiyi on imagery of [redacted] the independent squadron of FAGOT/FRESCO was absent. Imagery of Liangping Airfield on [redacted] indicated an increase in FRESCO strength to account for the number of FRESCO absent from Baishiyi. Subsequent military unit cover designator (MUCD) analysis indicated that the 98th Regiment (FARMER) had rotated to Baishiyi and the independent squadron had probably rotated to Liangping.⁵

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CAF 2nd School

6. [redacted] During the first half of 1979 the CAF 2nd School BEAGLE element expanded from Chengdu/Pengshan Airfield to Chengdu/Qionglai Airfield (items 6 and 8, Table 1). Prior to 1979 Chengdu/Qionglai Airfield had a mixed AOB of five or six BEAGLE and approximately 21 FAGOT/FRESCO. The FAGOT/FRESCO had departed and the BEAGLE strength had increased to 18 when the airfield was last observed on imagery of June 1979. The AOB at Qionglai was assessed at 24 BEAGLE as of [redacted] AOB at Pengshan remained at approximately 36 BEAGLE when it was last observed on [redacted]

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Airfield Construction

7. (TSR) Construction was completed at two major airfields in the Chengdu MR during the reporting period. Chudra Airfield (Figure 5 and item 20, Table 1) was probably completed in early 1979. The initial stage of construction was noted in November 1970, and the airfield appeared to be operational by mid-1977. By early 1979 the construction engineers' barracks had been dismantled and abandoned. Although no aircraft have yet been observed at the airfield, tire marks on the runway indicate that the field is in use.

8. [redacted] Xichang Airfield North (Figure 6 and item 17, Table 1) was in the initial stage of construction in December 1968, and it appeared to be operational as a civilian airfield by 1975. By late 1979 revetted hardstands had been completed at the north (military) end of the airfield. On [redacted] three BAT and seven FARMER were observed at the airfield for the first time. The three BAT were probably involved in an anti-aircraft artillery exercise in the area and they subsequently departed.⁷ By March 1980 the FARMER strength had increased to 13. The subordination of this FARMER unit has not yet been determined.

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Table 1.
Chinese Units and Installations at Airfields in Chengdu Military Region, China
(Items keyed to Figure 1)

This table in its entirety is classified TOP SECRET RUFF [REDACTED]

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Item	Unit	Airfield BE No Coordinates	Runway Length x Width (m) Orientation Surface	Landing Aids	AOB (Average)	Remarks
Chinese Air Force (CAF) Headquarters						
	8th Air Army Hqs	Chengdu Air Dist Hqs [REDACTED] 30-40-44N 104-03-41E				
	Lhasa AF Cmd Hqs	Lhasa Hqs Tibet Air Mil Dist & Bks AL 4 [REDACTED] 29-38-46N 091-07-40E				Served as alternate 8th Air Army Hqs during the Sino-Vietnamese conflict
33rd Division						
1	33rd Div Hqs 97th Regt	Dazu [REDACTED] 29-38-13N 105-46-22E	2,206 x 49 NNE/SSW Concrete	PAR NDB	31 FARMER 2 COLT	Deployed to Kunming MR Oct-Nov 1980
2	99th Regt Unid Ind Sqdn	Liangping [REDACTED] 30-40-43N 107-47-10E	2,298 x 49 NE/SW Concrete	PAR NDB	11 FARMER 11 FRESCO 19 FAGOT 1 COLT 1 HOUND	Ind sqdn rotated here from Baishiyi and 98th Regt rotated from here to Baishiyi in Aug 80
3	98th Regt	Chongqing/Baishiyi [REDACTED] 29-29-45N 106-21-35E	2,200 x 46 N/S Concrete	PAR GCA NDB	24 FARMER 1 TRIDENT 2 CRATE 10 COLT	98th Regt rotated here from Liangping and Ind Sqdn rotated from here to Liangping in Aug 80
10th Independent Squadron						
4	10th Ind Sqdn	Chengdu/Fenghuangshan [REDACTED] 30-43-53N 104-05-41E	1,207 x 25 NNE/SSW Asphalt	PAR NDB	1 CRATE 10 COLT 3 HOUND	Airstrip was undergoing repairs in mid-1980
5	10th Ind Sqdn	Yibin [REDACTED] 28-48-11N 104-32-52E	1,190 x 686 Heliport Graded earth	Unknown	10 HOUND	
CAF 2nd School						
6	CAF 2nd School Hqs	Chengdu/Pengshan [REDACTED] 30-15-55N 103-51-10E	2,594 x 60 N/S Concrete	PAR Prob GCA Prob NDB	36 BEAGLE	
7	CAF 2nd School	Luzhou [REDACTED] 28-51-10N 105-23-44E	1,801 x 60 ENE/WSW Concrete	None	34 MAX	
8	CAF 2nd School	Chengdu/Qionglai [REDACTED] 30-29-22N 103-27-58E	2,600 x 50 NNE/SSW Concrete	PAR Prob GCA NDB	18 BEAGLE 1 CURL	
9	CAF 2nd School	Jianjiang CAF Air School [REDACTED] 29-43-35N 103-36-49E	1,404 x 47 WNW/ESE Graded earth/rock	None	None	
CAF 14th School						
10	CAF 14th School	Chengdu/Guanghan [REDACTED] 30-56-53N 104-19-48E	1,402 x 50 NW/SE Concrete	None	4 CRATE 10 COLT 28 MAX	
11	CAF 14th School	Chengdu/Shuangliu [REDACTED] 30-34-48N 103-56-56E	2,606 x 61 NNE/SSW Concrete	PAR GCA NDB	4 COLT 4 COKE 3 CRATE 3 CAB	
12	CAF 14th School	Chengdu/Xinjiang [REDACTED] 30-25-14N 103-50-44E	2,560 x 76 NNE/SSW Asphalt	None	30-36 COLT	
13	CAF 14th School	Mianyang [REDACTED] 31-24-56N 104-46-02E	1,006 x 31 N/S Concrete	None	16 COLT	
14	CAF 14th School	Suining [REDACTED] 30-28-20N 105-36-38E	998 x 30 NW/SE Concrete	None	6 COLT 30 MAX	
15	CAF Repair Depot 5701	Chengdu/Taipingsu [REDACTED] 30-36-11N 104-00-54E	1,524 x 49 N/S Concrete	None	2 CRATE 2 COLT 19 BAT 56 HOUND	

Civil Air Administration of China (CAAC)

CAAC Hqs
 CAAC 1st Wing
 7th Group
 CAAC 2nd Wing
 17th Group
 CAAC Repair
 Depot 103

Chengdu/Shuangliu
 (see item 11)
 Chongqing/Baishiyi
 (see item 3)
 Chengdu/Shuangliu
 (see item 11)

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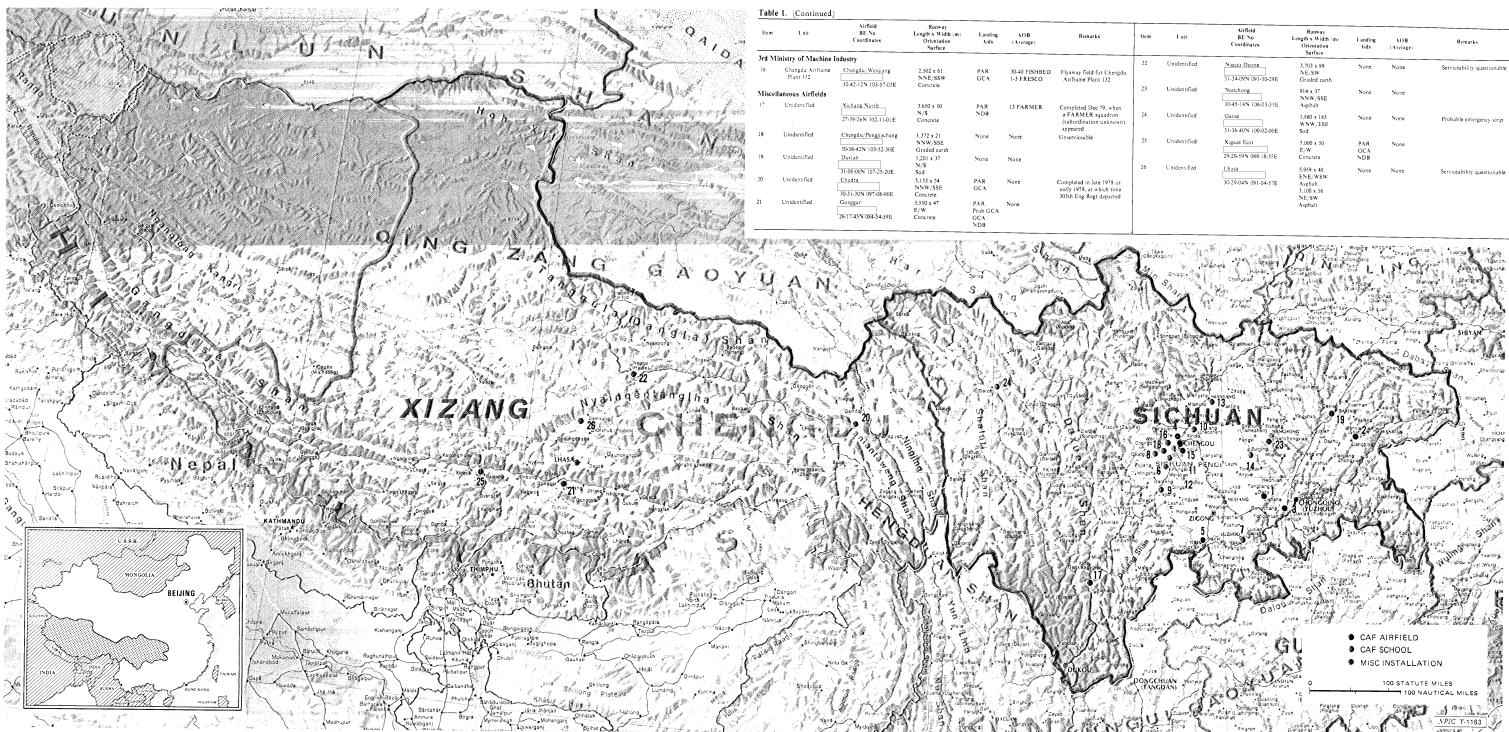


FIGURE 1. LOCATIONS OF AIRFIELDS IN CHENGDU MILITARY REGION, CHINA

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Conclusion

9. [] With the exception of the CAF 33rd Division, air activity in the Chengdu MR from [] remained at a fairly low level. The 33rd Division deployed to the Kunming MR for the Sino-Vietnamese conflict and rotated two units in August 1980. Construction was completed at two airfields.

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REFERENCES**IMAGERY**

(TSR) All applicable KEYHOLE imagery acquired between [] was used in the preparation of this report.

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7. NPIC. [] IAR-0055/80, *Antiaircraft Artillery Training in Chengdu Military Region, China (S)*, May 80 (TOP SECRET []) 25X1

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(S) Comments and queries concerning this report are welcome. They may be directed to [] Asian Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, []

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